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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
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How to Dispose of your Residential E-Waste

Electronics manufacturers now are responsible for the cost of recycling millions of pounds of residential electronic waste (e-waste) in Illinois every year.

This means you may have options for safely getting rid of your old residential computers, monitors, laptops, televisions, and printers. *Please note that old electronic equipment being discarded from a business is not covered by this program.*

Here's how the program works. The Illinois EPA has compiled a list of e-waste collectors whom you can contact regarding recycling either at no charge to you, or, if there is a fee, in exchange for a dollar-for-dollar coupon you can use to reduce the cost of new equipment. We have provided a list of collection sites, sorted alphabetically by county, which includes the collection site address and the site manager's name and phone number. This can be found at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/electronic-waste-recycling/index.html>.

Do not just show up at a collection site with your old equipment! Many collection sites are only open at selected times. Call the manager of the collection site nearest you for its schedule, as well as the types of old electronics the site will accept. Some sites will accept not only your computers, monitors, TVs, and printers, but also items like keyboards, mice, DVD players, and other electronics.

You can also help make Illinois greener by buying your equipment from manufacturers that have registered with the state and are complying with Illinois' law. We have provided a list, which is available by manufacturer, product type, or brand. This can be found at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/electronic-waste-recycling/registered-manufacturers.html>.

Also on our site is a list of electronics manufacturers that have not registered with the state or are otherwise not complying with the law. These manufacturers are prohibited from selling residential electronics in Illinois. Both they and Illinois retailers have been informed of this. You can obtain a list of manufacturers whose residential electronic equipment may not be sold to Illinois residents. This can be found at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/electronic-waste-recycling/non-responders.html>.

Thank you for helping rid Illinois of electronic garbage!

*The Illinois EPA assigns an annual recycling goal to each electronics manufacturer. Once that goal is achieved, a manufacturer and its collection sites may decide to no longer offer free electronics recycling for the remainder of the year. Your local collector can tell you if free e-waste recycling is available, or if you can avoid any charges by holding your equipment until next year.



Used Paint Disposal Alternatives

Illinois EPA's Household Hazardous Waste Program is a widely accepted and acclaimed system that works with local governments to divert residential waste materials with hazardous characteristics out of local solid waste landfills. The demand for this service far exceeds state resources available to deal with the wastes. A number of cost-containment features have been implemented over the years to increase efficiency, but demand continues to accelerate.

At every collection, in every part of the state, paint is the most common material delivered by Illinois citizens. Encouragement to use up leftover paint or give usable paint to a neighbor has not decreased the amount of latex paint significantly. Today's latex (water-based) paint has a very low level of toxicity. Disposing of it at a household hazardous waste collection day is very expensive. Therefore, the Illinois EPA encourages people with unwanted latex paint to use other options. After your painting job is done you may have some leftover paint. The question now is: "What should you do with it?" Here are some alternatives:

Keep Painting!

This may sound simple, and it is. What better place to put that last pint or so of paint but right up there on the wall where it blends in perfectly with all the other paint you just put up there? Sure, it's a little extra work—and right when you thought you're done for the day—but you'll be rid of that extra paint for good. Simply let the can dry and then recycle or dispose of it.

Paint Something Else!

It doesn't even have to need the paint. Use an old piece of cardboard, some scrap lumber, or the inside of your garage. Just about anywhere would probably work to use up that last bit of paint. Again, let the can dry and recycle or dispose of it.

Use an Absorbent like Kitty Litter!

Kitty litter, sawdust, shredded paper or just about anything else that will absorb moisture and let the paint dry out should work here. Depending on how full the can is, you can just add the absorbent to the can and mix it up. When the liquids are absorbed, dry the mixture out or dispose of it directly. You may be able to empty the can, dry it out, and recycle it.

Give it to Someone!

Look around and you may find somebody who needs to paint a small area. Some schools or local theatres will take some small amounts of paint for scenery.

Store it for Later!

Everyone has good intentions to use half-filled paint cans for "touch-ups" that never come. Also, many people have saved paint that becomes unusable over time before it's called into action. If you do save your paint for later, follow some easy tips to make the paint last longer. Just cover the opening with plastic wrap, and make sure the lid fits securely so the paint doesn't leak. Then turn the paint can upside down! This creates a tight seal, and keeps the paint fresh to use again.